

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218036

70

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IGA-01 MC-02 /066 R

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DOD/ISA: COL. WOOTEN

PM/SAS:DKEENE

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R 122321Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218036

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR RENEWS REQUEST FOR MAP

REF: TUNIS 5470

1. DOD INFORMS DEPARTMENT THAT AMBASSADOR HEDDA RENEWED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOYES WHOM HE SAW AFTER LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. THIS MEETING TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL.

2. IN BRIEF, HEDDA RENEWED REQUESTS FOR "AS MUCH MONEY POSSIBLE AT LOWEST RATES POSSIBLE," AND FOR BETTER MIXTURE OF ASSISTANCE INCLUDING BOTH GRANT AID AND FMS CREDITS. HE MENTIONED PROJECTED FMS FIGURES OF 75 MILLION DOLLARS OVER NEXT 5 YEARS, ADDING THAT UNSPECIFIED ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS WERE NEEDED. HEDDA ALSO SAID TUNISIA STILL WANTED
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PAGE 02 STATE 218036

THE HAWK, AND THAT POSSIBLY AS MUCH AS 200 MILLION DOLLARS

IN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THIS SYSTEM. HE ADDLD THAT HE HOPED DOD COULD GIVE HIM POSITIVE RESPONSE BEFORE OCTOBER 10, WHEN HE RETURNS TO TUNIS FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAD ASKED HIM TO PRESS FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE DURING RECENT VISIT TUNIS, AND THAT HE WISHED TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT UPON RETURN NEXT MONTH.

3. NOYES SAID THAT DOD COULD NOT MAKE ANY NEW COMMITMENTS NOW, AND THAT TUNISIA MILITARY ASSISTANCE NEEDS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER WITH OVERALL REQUIREMENTS WORLDWIDE.

4. COMMENT: APPARENT THAT TUNISIAN EMBASSY NOT KEPT ABREAST PRESENT DEFENSE MINISTRY'S THINKING ON MILITARY NEEDS AND DEPARTMENT SURMISES HEDDA'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS AT OWN INITIATIVE.

5. DETAILED REPLY TO EMBASSY'S ENCOURAGING REFTTEL BEING DRAFTED AND WILL BE SENT OUT SEPARATELY. KISSINGER

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